

Abstract

The instant invention pertains generally to a method and apparatus for rapidly detecting nerve agents, organophosphates, and other chemical warfare agents. A sensor has been

5 developed that can be used to rapidly detect multiple analytes such as organic compounds.

Analytes can be detected by monitoring changes in the optical properties of the absorbance and / or fluorescence spectra of highly colored heterocyclic compounds such as porphyrins or related compounds such as phthalocyanines. The result is a real-time monitor that is suitable for use in situations where encounter with chemical warfare agents is possible.